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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFORMATION REPORT NO. _____TOPIC Military Information from the Saxon Uranium Mining Area

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REMARKS _____

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1. Soviet troops have been observed in Auerbach (N 51/K 32), Vogtland, since the end of August 1951. Military installations at the post included: restricted area I on both sides of Bahnhofstrasse; restricted area II containing a former college; a camp of the Soviet penal company; a supply installation northeast of the lower railroad station; an ammunition dump northeast of the upper railroad station; and a motor pool on Im Freudenthal, west of the Goeltzsch River.
2. Restricted area I in Auerbach is located in the center of the town, on the north and south side of Bahnhofstrasse. It is bounded by Robert Blum Strasse on the west, Ernst Schmeller Strasse on the south, Friedrich Ebert Strasse on the east and allotment gardens on the north. The northern section of the restricted area contains primarily villas, and the southern section apartment houses, low wooden buildings and factory installations. A large percentage of the southern section was vacated by the civilian population as recently as the end of August 1951. Since that time, Bahnhofstrasse has been blocked to civilian traffic by a board fence. Troops, including drivers and sentries on Bahnhofstrasse, who were observed in the restricted area, wore black-bordered red epaulets. Patrols also wore a white brassard with an undetermined inscription. The northern section of the restricted area contained only the billets of Soviet families, but the buildings on Bahnhofstrasse, the factory installations and low wooden buildings quartered a total of about 500 troops. These troops were between 18 and 22 years of age and daily practiced close-order drill, combat training, and firing in groups of up to 40 men. The heaviest weapons observed were heavy machine guns. Vehicular traffic was unusually heavy. Buses occupied by troops and trucks loaded with ammunition were observed regularly.

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3. Restricted area II was located on the eastern edge of Auerbach between Schoenheider Strasse and Klingenthaler Strasse. The college and the low wooden buildings were occupied by troops prior to August 1951. The apartment houses were requisitioned later. Sentries observed there in September wore black-bordered red epaulets. However, the soldiers billeted there, including some newly arrived drivers, wore red-bordered black epaulets with a branch-of-service insignia resembling a signal insignia. In addition, the college quartered a small detail of soldiers who had Asiatic features and wore green service color. The detail has been stationed there for a long time.

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1,000 troops, who allegedly included some Soviet civilian drivers, were unloaded at the lower railroad station from two trains in the middle of September. Military personnel with red-bordered black epaulets have been observed in the streets of the town since that time. No training activity was seen. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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4. [redacted] Major Kachenko (fnu) and sedan [redacted] were identified with the MGB office in the Haupt Villa, Bautzen (O 52/A 60). An MGB major from Leipzig, who visited the office, drove sedan [redacted] 50X1-HUM

5. Between 6 and 15 September, MGB unit [redacted] in Cottbus (N 52/A 57) received 480 loaves of rye bread, 330 loaves of brown bread and 32 loaves of white bread. The bread was usually picked up by truck [redacted] 50X1-HUM

6. Between 11 and 16 September, it was observed that soldiers who appeared in Zwickau (N 51/K 34) in march columns wore red-bordered black epaulets and soldiers seen individually wore black-bordered red epaulets. For example, five units totaling 170 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen marching from the old spinning mill toward the officers' mess on 13 September. Three artillery officers were observed with the troops. Vehicles seen in the town included sedan [redacted] and truck [redacted] driven by soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets; and truck [redacted] driven by a soldier with red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) This is the first report on the occupation of Auerbach; [redacted]

[redacted] It appears that, besides Soviet labor and transport units of the Wismut Corporation, MGB units are stationed in Auerbach. [redacted]

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